

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SUVA 00337 020546Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-02

ACDA-10 L-02 /035 W

----- 066015

R 020120Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3849

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

UNCLAS SUVA 337

WELLINGTON FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MASS FJ

SUBJ: PATROL CRAFT FOR FIJI

REF: SUVA 233

1. COLONEL PAUL MANUELI, COMMANDER, ROYAL FIJI MILITARY FORCES, CALLED ON CHARGE APRIL 2 TO REPORT ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO LONG BEACH TO INSPECT TWO COASTAL MINESWEEPERS. HE REPORTS GOF IS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN TWO SHIPS OF THIS CLASS. HOWEVER, TWO SHIPS THAT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE HAVE PACKARD DIESEL ENGINES, AND MANUELI INFORMED BY NAVAL AUTHORITIES LONG BEACH THAT THIS TYPE ENGINE VERY DIFFICULT MAINTAIN AND THAT GOF WOULD BE HAPPIER WITH GENERAL MOTORS ENGINES. MANUELI ADVISED THAT FIVE VESSELS IN SAME CLASS WITH GM MOTORS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE JULY, AND THAT GOF SHOULD PUT IN BID FOR TWO OF THESE. MANUELI IS THEREFORE PROPOSING IN HIS REPORT TO PRIME MINISTER THAT FIJI BUY TWO OF MINESWEEPERS WITH GM MOTORS.

2. LATER SAME DAY, CHARGE TELEPHONED BY SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS KOTOBALAVU WHO CONFIRMED THAT GOF IS INTERESTED IN TWO OF MINESWEEPERS, SPECIFICALLY USS VIREO AND USS WARBLER,  
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WHICH ARE AMONG FIVE THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN JULY.

GOF IS INTERESTED IN HAVING CREWS FOR BOTH SHIPS TRAINED IN US WHO CAN THEN SAIL VESSELS TO FIJI. IN THIS WAY, VESSELS WILL ARRIVE IN OPERATIONAL STATE. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP WHAT STEPS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN TO ARRANGE FOR CREW TRAINING, SO THAT THIS INFORMATION CAN BE INCLUDED WITH OTHER INFORMATION ALREADY OBTAINED BY GOF WHEN MATTER PRESENTED TO CABINET FOR FINAL DECISION IN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. KOTOBALAVU REQUESTS THAT EXTENSION OF UP TO MONTH BE GIVEN BEFORE FINAL NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE BE GIVEN TO US, SINCE CABINET DECISION, ALTHOUGH LARGELY PRO FORMA IN THIS CASE, IS REQUIRED.  
HALL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PROCUREMENT, NAVAL SHIPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SUVA00337  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750113-0727  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 75 SUVA 233  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PATROL CRAFT FOR FIJI  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, FJ, (MANUELI, PAUL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006